

Riding Club Proposes Need For New Fairgrounds

15 June 1967 2021

The needs of a changing economy often require modern updated revisions of existing programs and concepts. It is generally acknowledged that Heber Valley's future potential lies in the direction of increased tourism and cannot be based on yesterday's agricultural, timber or mining resources. Our modern dairymen are unable to compete in today's highly competitive world with yesterday's barns, production methods or milk processing methods.

AND YET — OUR community allows a 30-year-old completely inadequate fairground complex to be the reflection of our image to the outside public.

A new facility with adequate space for future expansion, located ½ mile south of the "Y" Junction between US 40 and the Daniels Road, has been proposed as a solution to the problem. Heber could be the "Horse Capitol" of the State of Utah, with such a facility. People ENJOY coming to OUR VALLEY — but lack something to see and do while here. Scenery is not enough for the modern tourist! Other areas are NOT as blessed as we, with our excellent location adjacent to the exploding population center on the Wasatch Front, plus good motel and restaurant facilities. We know where our potential lies — let's DO something about it! We, as horsemen have demonstrated our ability this past winter with the Cutter Races to fill our town with tourists who leave dollars for our tourist-oriented townspeople. Give us a facility we can be proud of and let us attract them in year around, for the benefit of all of us.

THIS YEAR WOULD BE the ideal time to consider a complete remodeling of our present facility or a move to a more advantageous spot outside the city limits onto relatively cheap

ground with room for the FUTURE.

To "steal" a few dollars here and there from our present county budget as proposed by our County Commissioner, in charge of the fairground is NOT enough. Our entire facility has been patched upon for years until the patches are falling apart. The untreated "quaker" posts set in 30 years ago are gone, and completely unsafe for rodeo events. We are today unable to compete successfully with out adjacent areas for the many events available. To tack a straight-away track onto our present oval without a well-planned MASTER PLAN would be disastrous! No one spending his own money in private business would possibly consider doing so without this long range thinking, and yet this has been proposed by our commissioner. True it would provide for an immediate need and perhaps "save face" since he has promised such a facility, but his plans do NOT call for acquisition of enough property to move the present grandstands onto the side where the straight away would be located!

THE FAIRGROUND Improvement Committee is composed of several highly esteemed local businessmen who were originally assigned to this committee to act as a liaison between the city and county. The Fairgrounds was previously jointly owned by these two groups and for years has been neglected as far as maintenance or any sort of future development was concerned. This committee has worked countless hours in an attempt to resolve some of these problems — and yet their decisions have absolutely no authority at the present time due to the county now having complete ownership of the fairgrounds. Such authority is therefore held by one man — our commissioner in charge of the fairgrounds — and he finds absolutely no merit in doing other than "patching" onto our present facility.

ANOTHER OF OUR commissioners has made public the statement, "We will never move the fairgrounds from its present site as long as I'm commission-

er!"

These attitudes and statements arise from men who were voted to office on the platform of "PROGRESS."

The proposed new site contains 115 acres in contrast with the 20 acres of our present facility. Access is excellent from either US 40 or the Daniels Road. There is room for all types of recreation including ball diamonds, park facilities, small reservoir for fishing in summer and ice skating in the winter, and obviously, lots of adequately located parking and room for future expansion.

WE PROPOSE TRADING WE PROPOSE TRADING

our present site for the new location — such a trade has been suggested to our commissioners. This trade has been discussed and the owner of the proposed new property is awaiting our pleasure. He would accept as a down payment, our present 20 acre site and allow us 5 yearly payments to pay the balance at 5% interest; and in the meantime our community could seek aid for payment of the balance and development of the facility from the many federal grants which are available if applied for by the proper authorities.

THE RIDING CLUB further proposes to the County Commissioners and the Community — that a committee be appointed with authority equal to our commissioner, to review any proposed changes and to evolve a long term master plan which would be of necessity followed by the Commission in the development of our Fairgrounds.

We plead with you as the public to support us in this effort.

IF A WELL-PLANNED facility is available it will be utilized to the fullest extent and pay for itself readily as far as the community is concerned, instead of 2 to 3 days each year as is our present fairgrounds. It would be an injustice to spend ANY MONEY for other than the most temporary repairs indicated for this year's fair. We would even propose NOT REPAIRING the currently burned out portion of the grandstand. Alternately, we would suggest blocking this area off and not using it this year. The

proposed costs of this repair amount to \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 — same to be utilized for 2 days only at a cost of approximately \$2,000.00 per day. Instead this money could be used to build temporary bleachers which would more than compensate for the lack of seating capacity — and then these bleachers could easily be removed to the proposed new site, if accepted. In all probability the present grandstand would have to be completely dismantled in order to move it the necessary one mile and could then be easily rebuilt to its original capacity.

IF FEDERAL HELP IS not available for this admittedly ambitious project we would further suggest initially, acquisition of the ground, acceptance of a long range plan for its development and then if necessary a piece-meal approach with additions yearly as warranted and financially possible.

Signed,
J. D. BOGGESE, M. D.
President, Heber Valley
Riding Club

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